CLAIMS

1. A network comprising at least two sub-networks, each having at least one slave terminal or device and a master terminal or device connected thereto that is arranged to instruct at least one slave terminal or device in the given sub-network to exchange sub-network information with other sub-networks,
wherein an inquiring or responding state is provided for a slave terminal or device that has been instructed to exchange information, the master terminal or device of a responding slave terminal or device being arranged to dissolve its sub-network, and the master terminal or device of an inquiring slave terminal being arranged to merge the terminals or devices of the dissolved sub-network into its own sub-network.

2. A network as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a slave terminal that is instructed to exchange information is arranged to report its network membership.

3. A network as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the master terminal or device is arranged to notify all the slave terminals or devices in its own sub-network of the addresses of all the terminals or devices that are merged in its own sub-network.

4. A network as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, when establishing a connection to other terminals or devices, the master terminal or device is arranged to check compliance with conditions for merging a terminal or device as a slave terminal or device into the sub-network.

5. A network as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the master terminal or device is arranged to merge a terminal or device as a slave terminal or device into the network provided the slave terminal or device is not included in a blacklist.

6. A network as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a slave terminal or device participating in communications on the network that has not been instructed by the master terminal or device to exchange sub-network information is arranged not to change to a

state in which it transmits inquiries or a response to an inquiry from another terminal or device.

7. A network as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a terminal or device has a first software component that operates to the Bluetooth standard and a second software component for controlling the first software component, which second software component is arranged to convert instructions from a third, application-oriented software component, and in that the second software component is arranged for merging sub-networks.

8. A network as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the master terminal or device is arranged to instruct only a single slave terminal or device that is not participating in communications to exchange sub-network information with other sub-networks.

9. A sub-network comprising at least one slave terminal or device, and a master terminal or device connected thereto that is arranged to instruct at least one slave terminal or device in a sub-network to exchange sub-network information with other sub-networks, wherein an inquiring or responding state is provided for a slave terminal or device that has been instructed to exchange information, the master terminal or device of a responding slave terminal or device being arranged to dissolve its sub-network, and the master terminal or device of an inquiring slave terminal or device being arranged to merge the terminals or devices of the dissolved sub-network into its own sub-network.

10. A terminal that is provided as a slave terminal or device or master terminal or device in a sub-network, wherein the terminal or device is arranged, as a master terminal or device,

- to notify all the terminals or devices merged in its own sub-network of the addresses of all the terminals or devices merged in its own sub-network,
- to instruct a slave terminal or device to exchange sub-network information with another sub-network
- as a master terminal or device of a responding slave terminal, to dissolve its own sub-network,
- as a master terminal or device of an inquiring slave terminal or device, to merge the terminals or devices from the dissolved sub-network into its own sub-network,

and wherein the terminal or device is arranged, as a slave terminal or device,

- to exchange sub-network information in an inquiring or responding state,
- to pass on the sub-network information received to its own master terminal or device,
- when not instructed by the master terminal or device to exchange sub-network information, not to inquire or to respond to inquiries from a terminal or device.